

REMINDER – NO LOBBYIST \$\$ DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The State Elections Enforcement Commission reminds all concerned individuals of the ban on campaign contributions and the solicitation of such contributions by registered lobbyists and their affiliated political committees to General Assembly and statewide candidates and their affiliated political committees during the legislative session.

There are two different sets of provisions that apply to registered lobbyists: (1) a temporary “sessional” contribution and solicitation ban while the General Assembly is in session that applies to all individuals or entities that are registered with the Office of State Ethics as either a “client lobbyist” or a “communicator lobbyist” and political committees established by or on behalf of such lobbyists; and (2) a permanent (year round) set of restrictions that applies to all individuals or entities registered as a “communicator lobbyist,” their immediate family members and political committees established or controlled by communicator lobbyists or members of their immediate family. Specifically, communicator lobbyists are subject to a year round \$100 contribution limit to candidates for General Assembly and statewide office, political committees established or controlled by such candidates, legislative leadership and caucus committees, and party committees. In addition, communicator lobbyists are prohibited from bundling¹ contributions for such committees. Finally, communicator lobbyists may not knowingly solicit contributions for such committees from individuals who serve on the board of directors of, are partners of, are employed by, or have a five percent or more ownership interest in any client lobbyist they represent. The Office of State Ethics maintains a list of all client lobbyists and communicator lobbyists.

The sessional ban begins from the time the General Assembly convenes in regular session on January 7, 2015 and continues until adjournment on June 3, 2015 and also applies during any special session occurring between the adjournment of the 2015 session and the convening of the next regular session. Candidates in exploratory or candidate committees for (1) statewide office, (2) General Assembly and (3) political committees that failed to certify that they were “not established (a) for an assembly or senatorial district, (b) by an elected statewide official, a member of the General Assembly or their agent, or (c) in consultation with or at the request or suggestion of any such official, member or their agent, or controlled by such official, member or agent,” are prohibited from receiving lobbyist contributions or benefiting from lobbyist solicitations during the session. See General Statutes § 1-91 (l), (u) and (v), for the definition of “lobbyist,” “client lobbyist” and “communicator lobbyist;” and General Statutes § 9-610 (e), (g), (h) and (i), for the application of the bans.

The State Elections Enforcement Commission has provided to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Minority Leader, the House Minority Leader, and each statewide officer, a copy of its updated list of “Political Committees Established by or on

¹ The statute defines “bundle” as forwarding five or more contributions to a single committee by a communicator lobbyist, lobbyist’s agent or immediate family member or raising contributions for such a committee at a fundraising affair hosted or sponsored by such lobbyist, lobbyist’s agent or immediate family member.

behalf of a Lobbyist” as well as an updated “Prohibited Political Committee Recipients.” Copies of these lists are available to each legislator from these leaders as well as by accessing the Commission’s website located at www.ct.gov/seec. Any questions concerning application of the lobbyist contribution bans or any other provision of the State’s campaign financing laws should be directed to the Commission at 860-256-2940, Legal Compliance Unit, or toll free outside the Hartford local calling area at: 1-866-733-2463.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Cc:

Governor Dannel Malloy
Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman
Secretary of the State Denise Merrill
Attorney General George Jepsen
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
Treasurer Denise Nappier

Senator Martin Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore
Senator Len Fasano, Senate Minority Leader

Rep. J. Brendan Sharkey, Speaker of the House
Rep. Themis Klarides, House Minority Leader